Message Text

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50

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAB-01

SAJ-01 EUR-12 DHA-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00 (ISO)W

.---- 096730

PR 171423Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5234

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 7044

EO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG XF UN

SUBJECT: LOCAL OBSERVERS IN CAIRO ON MEANING OF

GOE UNEF ANNOUNCEMENT

IR #6-899-0144-75 DTG: 161410Z JULY 75 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL OBSERVERS HAVE NOW HAD 24 HOURS DIGEST FAHMY LETTER ON UNEF MANDATE; GENERAL CONSENSUS AMONG THOSE WE HAVE TALKED TO IS THAT EGYPTIAN DECISION NOT TO RENEW MANDATE, IN FIRST INSTANCE, FOCUSES WORLD, AND, PRIMARILY, US ATTENTION ON LACK OF PROGRESS IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS AND EMPHASIZES EGYPTIAN UNWILLINGNESS TO BE LEFT IN WEAK POSITION OF HAVING TO WAIT AROUND FOR ISRAELIS. IT IS, SECONDLY, SINCERE ATTEMPT TO GET UNSC TO PASS RESOLUTION EXTENDING MANDATE FOR LIMITED PERIOD, WITH ATTACHED PROVISO THAT ISRAEL TAKE SPECIFIC STEPS TOWARD PEACE. OBSERVERS RELUCTANT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECULATE ON WHETHER PROVISO WILL LIST SPECIFIC STEPS IRAEL

MUST TAKE TO PROVE GOOD INTENTIONS OR WHETHER IT WILL BE LEFT RELATIVELY VAGUE. MANY SPECULATE THAT US WILL GO SO FAR AS TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION CONTAINING SPECIFIC STEPS ISRAEL MIGHT TAKE.

2. ON IMMEDIATE QUESTION OF WHAT HAPPENS NEXT TO UN FORCES IN SINAI, CONSENSUS IS THAT EGYPT CLEARLY WILL NOT ASK UNEF TO LEAVE. DRAWING ON FAHMY'S STATEMENT IN Q & A SESSION FOLLOWING PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 15 THAT "THE UNEF WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION UNTIL THE COUNCIL TAKES ITS DECISION AND IN LIGHT OF COUNCIL DECISION, EGYPT WILL TAKE ITS FINAL DECISION",

LOCAL OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THERE IS NOT QUESTION THAT GOE INTENDS FOR TROOPS TO REMAIN UNTIL IT HAS DETERMINED WHAT COURSE OF ACTION TO TAKE FOLLOWING OUTCOME OF SC DEBATE. UNDERSTANDING IS THAT GOE HAS PUT NO SPECIFIC TIME LIMIT ON THIS.

- 3. SOME MEMBERS FOREIGN PRESS CORPS SPECULATE THAT US KNEW BEFOREHAND THAT GOE PLANNED ISSUE STATEMENT, SURMISING ON BASIS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REMARK THAT ONLY "TIMING" OF DECISION WAS SURPRISE, RATHER THAN THAT DECISION ITSELF WAS SURPRISE.
- 4. ONLY ALARMIST OPINION WE HAVE HEARD SO FAR REPORTED REFTEL. ONLY PESSIMISTIC VIEWPOINT WAS EXPRESSED BY CHIEF EDITORS OF AL-AHRAM AL-IKTISADI WHO BELIEVE FAHMY STATEMENT TO BE CLEAR SIGNAL THAT STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATIONS HAVE COMPLETELY BROKEN DOWN.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State **EO Systematic Review** 06 JÚL 2006

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TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, UN, UNEF

To: STATE

Type: TE

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